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BRIEFLY TOLD

A one-hundred-thousand-dollar exchange building in Wichita, Kansas, is threatened with destruction by hordes of ants, driving upward from the earth through mud tubes. Oaken lumber stored under the building has been practically consumed and the ants have tunneled as far as the second floor following pipe lines. Fly paper placed in the path of the ants was bridged with dirt by the insects.

A special issue of airplane service stamps of 15, 30 and 45-cent denominations has been prepared by the Chinese post office department, in anticipation of the air transmission planned for the near future in that country.

A green parrot swinging in a tree in Evanston, Illinois, jammed traffic for blocks by calling out, "Not so fast—go slow! Stop!" The same squad of officers who captured the parrot rounded up an organ grinder who had a monkey trained to climb into second-story windows and pass out articles of value. When captured, the monkey had a valuable vase and lavalliere which he had stolen from a bedroom.

Prehistoric Mexico was occupied and colonized by Chinese, according to archeologists whose researches have resulted in discoveries of incense burners and peculiar three-legged dishes made only by the Chinese.

An Eastern circus organization will tour the country this year in motor trucks costing from \$12,000 to \$30,000 apiece. It is estimated the saving in rail charges will go a long way to pay for this equipment. The motorized circus will be able to travel anywhere and, being independent of train service, may make towns not often visited by large shows.

Ten thousand Chinese entered Mexico through Pacific Coast ports and Guatemala during 1920.

A twelve-foot boa constrictor, a stowaway from some tropical port, recently arrived in New York Harbor where he was stunned by a fall caused when the Hoboken workmen tore away his resting place. He was boxed up and sent to the zoo. Floods have been prevalent in the tropics and it is thought he crawled through a porthole from a drifting tree.

All doctors and dentists entering Mexico must pass an examination. Those who have been practicing three years in that country may continue, provided they register diplomas from foreign institutions of good standing.

In the Cambria coal field of Wyoming small quantities of gold and silver are present in the coal veins. In South Africa a similar occurrence has been noted, the coal occurring in small seams running through the quartzite ore.

A dust storm recently blew for thirty hours carrying Gobi Desert sand to Shanghai and far out to sea. Japanese liners arriving at Yokohama found it difficult navigating, owing to the heavy yellow cloud enveloping them. During the blow, Peking resembled a deserted city, for nobody ventured out except under stress of necessity.

Following the injury of eight freshmen and sophomores who were cut and burned recently in a class battle involving about one thousand students, all forms of hazing have been abolished by the student body of the University of Wisconsin.

The Colorado catastrophe is a reminder that among the greatest floods of history were the tropical hurricane at Galveston, Texas, that in 1900 lifted the waves from the Gulf many feet above the high-tide level causing a loss of 8,000 lives; that caused by the breaking of a dam at Johnstown, Pennsylvania, in 1889, with thousands of fatalities; the flood at Hoangho, China, in 1853, and a tidal wave in Bengal in 1876 which drowned 200,000 people.

A Philadelphia man lost his life recently while attempting to chloroform an aged pet cat. The cat scratched and struggled as he tried to administer the chloroform. The fumes became so dense the man fell unconscious and died. The cat escaped!

Help came from the skies when a man walked off the sea wall recently into the Potomac River. The pilot of a seaplane five hundred feet in the air saw him plunge into the water and swooping down enabled his companion flier to drag the drowning man to safety.

In the belief that prisons are too comfortable to serve as threats to those of criminal tendencies, a justice of the Brooklyn supreme court advocates the judicious use of the lash in certain cases.

Stockmen are exterminating the few remaining herds of wild horses which still roam the high ranges of Arizona, New Mexico, Southern Utah and Oregon. Wild horses are a menace to the domestic stock when turned out to pasture on the range. They consume fodder, break down fences and lure valuable animals from ranches. Expert rifle shots are engaged to hunt down these wild horses.

Airplane police to regulate traffic, patrol the lake front for persons and vessels in distress, assist in hunting bank robbers and automobile bandits, and to perform various other duties, will be added to the Evanston, Illinois, police department.

A bronze statue representing Victory, and designed to commemorate the heroism of Australian soldiers, laid for over a year, dust-covered and forgotten, in the yard of the Federal Parliament House. The unfortunate oversight has been rectified and Australia's thanks have been sent to the sculptor.

It is now possible to send a crewless vessel as far as radio impulses will carry. The same means can be used in sending a giant torpedo against a foe regardless of how far distant the enemy might be, provided he is within reach of the radio. In vessels the device is attached to the fuel engine, the water engine and the steering mechanism making it possible to guide, fuel and water by radio.

Rhodesia, under the administration of the Chartered Company of South Africa, is the most lightly taxed portion of the British Empire. Nevertheless the community has expressed a desire for the recognition by the Imperial Government of the status of a self-governing dominion, even though it would involve the payment of a debt of four million four hundred thirty-five thousand pounds.

Among the eight hundred and forty members of the Northwestern University graduating class is a blind student who worked his way through.

The lowly corncob can be made into many useful articles, due to a set of discoveries made in the Bureau of Chemistry of the Department of Agriculture. After a high-grade adhesive is removed, pure cellulose, a very good quality of paper and valuable lime products are recovered from the residue.

One-half of our citizens who are eligible voters fail to vote.

In the belief that a wife's place is in the home and not in the schoolroom, the Chicago school board has dismissed all married teachers and replaced them by single women.

The curb market in New York will be no more after July 10 when the New York Curb Brokers' Association will move into their newly erected building. Thereafter all trading will be done indoors. Thousands of sight-seers will remember the mad throng which for thirty-five years operated on the actual curb in Broad Street.

The Passion Play is to be revived at Oberammergau in 1922 when it is planned to give thirty performances. Eighty-two men, formerly actors in the play, were killed during the World War.

The probation method of dealing with juvenile delinquents in New York costs only one-eighteenth as much as institutional care.

During one hundred and forty-five years, the United States has been engaged in 110 wars or military expeditions.

Certain natives of South Africa brew a drink which reverses the motor nerves, causing drinkers to walk backward. The liquor is made of the fruit of the cashew tree.

Two out of every three persons in the world are unable to read and write, and one billion of the billion six hundred million persons in the world are non-Christians.

Ever since his midshipman days, King George has been collecting postage stamps. He is the only monarch sufficiently interested in this pastime to have a special official in charge of his collection.

Gold and silver in small quantities have been discovered on a farm in Iowa, according to reports from a Chicago assayer. Certain sections of the country along the Des Moines River are underlaid by ore-bearing gravel beds.

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